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About the Weather. By Mark W. Harrington. 12mo. New York, D. Appleton & Company, 1899. pp. 246. Illustrated. Price 50 cents.

This little book may be recommended to those who wish to learn something about the larger relations of meteorological phenomena. *About the Weather* is not at all adapted for use as a text-book, but is intended for "home reading." The author, Professor Harrington, is well and favorably known as a representative American meteorologist. With the exception of the first four chapters, which concern some of the more important of the human relations of meteorological phenomena, the book presents little that calls for comment. In general, the treatment of the subject is similar to that in other books of the same kind. The four chapters referred to are, however, somewhat unique in laying proper emphasis upon a very important aspect of meteorology. The relations of climate, and of weather changes, to man are many and varied. They have not begun to receive the attention which they deserve. It is, therefore, a promising sign when the author of the latest book on meteorology places the human relations of his science so prominently in the opening chapters of his book. *About the Weather* will give any one a pleasant hour or two of interesting and profitable reading.

R. DEC. W.

The Madeira Islands. By Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Fellow of the American Geographical Society; Delegate, by Special Appointment, of the Associação Commercial of Funchal, Madeira, to the International Commercial Congress in Philadelphia, U. S. A., 1899, etc., etc. With Forty-seven Full-page Illustrations, a Map of Funchal, and a Section of the Medici Map, and Comprising the History of the Madeiras; Information for the Traveller and Visitor; a Treatise descriptive of the Natives, their Characteristics, Religions, Laws, and Customs; and an Account of the Commerce. Two Volumes, 8vo. London, Hurst & Blackett, Limited, 1900.

In these handsome volumes Mr. Drexel Biddle has condensed and classified the results of his long acquaintance with the Madeira Islands and their people, who seem to have won his affection. He says in his preface:

In styling the natives of these islands Madeirans the author has furthermore departed from the custom of all previous writers on the subject, who have called them Portuguese—an appellation which the natives themselves resent.

No explanation was needed ; the people of Madeira are Madeirans, and they are so called by the Portuguese. None the less they are also Portuguese, resent the appellation as they may. Exaggerated self-consciousness like theirs is the mark of small communities all over the world. "As Hull goes, so goes the State."

Mr. Biddle accepts as historical the charming legend of the lovers who discovered Madeira. The story would lose nothing, but it would gain very little, if it were recognized as authentic history to-day, to be relegated to the land of fable in a few years. As romance it is sure of perennial youth.

The ways of life, the street scenes in Funchal, the social aspects, the excursions and the natural beauties of the islands are, in a measure, reduced to tabular form by the author, so that his book might serve as an illustrated Baedeker. The statistics given are fortified by official documents and letters.

The maps and the numerous views are excellently reproduced.